

Kentucky Department of Corrections

2008 In Review

As 2008 unfolded, Kentucky's prison population continued to grow at an alarming rate and reports were published that confirmed it was in fact the fastest growing prison population in the nation. In response, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 406 - several measures aimed at reducing the incarcerated felon population and the supervised parole population. The Department of Corrections diligently worked to carry out these measures throughout the year.

Actions related to these population reduction initiatives are listed as some of our most significant accomplishments.

House Bill 406 calls for prisoners to receive credit for 'time spent on parole' and has resulted in the release from custody of 1,972 inmates as of December 31, 2008. This provision alone will save the Commonwealth over \$12.5 M in the first fiscal year. Since implementation, another 2,610 have received a final discharge from parole.

A Breakout by Division:

◆ ADULT INSTITUTIONS

- ✓ Complied with a Mandate of the Kentucky General Assembly to perform DNA testing on all prison inmates.
- ✓ Carried out the execution of a death row inmate by established protocol in compliance with the order of the Governor and the Courts. This was the first execution in nine years.
- ✓ Established a system of monitoring the inmate racial balance in housing, program and work assignments at all institutions.
- ✓ Launched new dog programs at two prisons, Little Sandy Correctional Complex and Kentucky State Reformatory, and a third prison, Blackburn Correctional Complex, is in the planning stages to begin its program by summer of 2009.

- ✓ Currently revising and implementing changes in the process of transporting inmates in order to increase public safety.
- ✓ Began the process of increasing institutional security by adding steel bars to facility Control Centers.
- ✓ Sponsored two “Capstone Projects” which is the final requirement of the Certified Public Managers Program. As a result, national data on inmate health care costs and the institutional entry/exit process was received and is currently being reviewed for application.
- ✓ Initiated a Strategic Planning format for Adult Institutions operations which includes a metric measurement tool for the areas of:
 - Security
 - Management
 - ProgrammingThe planning process includes line staff, prison administrative staff, and central office staff.
- ✓ Developed a Critical Incident Response Manual for systemic management of critical incidents within adult institutions, to include, but not limited, to: riots, hostage situations, and escapes. This will significantly improve our ability to plan mock scenarios for all emergencies within our institutions.
- ✓ Developed protocol to manage Security Treat Groups (gangs) within institutions which standardizes identification and monitoring systemically.
- ✓ Two of our prisons, Green River Correctional Complex and Luther Luckett Correctional Complex, are participating in a Bureau of Justice Assistance funded project that, if successful, will produce a survey instrument that will allow correctional administrators to measure the amount of PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) prohibited sexual behavior within their facilities. Kentucky is one of only two states selected to participate in this project which is called a “PREA climate survey.” This survey will develop a valid and easy-to-deploy assessment tool to measure the effectiveness of PREA.

◆ COMMUNITY SERVICES

- ✓ For the first-time in several years, local jails were paid per diem payments from the state on time in 2008. This was the result of careful fiscal planning by the DOC chief budget officer and was a tremendous benefit to the jails across the state. Previously, we have started each fiscal year in a significant shortfall due to the jail funding issue and per diem payments.

- ✓ A Program Security Review was conducted by outside auditors to ensure compliance with American Correctional Association (ACA) standards. The Division of Probation and Parole received an excellent review which noted full compliance with all ACA standards.
- ✓ Provided training for all jail billing personnel, which improved accuracy and the time needed for processing payments.
- ✓ The Division of Probation & Parole has been working vigorously, in cooperation with the Governor's Office, in an enhanced effort to process applications for the restoration of civil rights. Gov. Beshear has restored the civil rights of 1,753 individuals thus far (as of December 31, 2008). During the four years of Gov. Fletcher's administration, the Department of Corrections has records of civil rights restorations of 1,033 individuals.
- ✓ In accordance with KRS 17.170 and in conjunction with the Kentucky State Police, Probation and Parole began the successful implementation of DNA testing of all convicted felony offenders. DNA sample collections are performed by all supervisory and investigation personnel during the presentence investigation phase of circuit court proceedings. After collections are performed, DNA samples are delivered to the State Police for testing and placement in the comprehensive felony offender DNA data base.
- ✓ Probation and Parole partnered with the Department's Office of Victim Services and the First Lady Jane Beshear's Shop & Share initiative to recognize and promote Domestic Violence Awareness. This partnership resulted in approximately \$200,000 worth of goods and monetary donations to benefit the domestic violence shelters of Kentucky.
- ✓ Assisted in the grand opening of the Taylor County Detention Center, from purchasing, staffing and housing plans. *(This was an increase in standard DOC support as this was a closed jail.)*
- ✓ Created the "Court Ordered Work Release Inmates Housed in County Jails" Manual - this was developed as an aid to both the jails and the sentencing courts.
- ✓ Kentucky Probation and Parole was chosen as one of five pilot states for the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision new offender management system. Acting as one of those pilot states, Kentucky Probation and Parole aided in the successful implementation of this national system.

- ✓ Created the “State Pay Guidelines for Inmates Housed in Local Jails” Manual – a step-by-step process to increase accuracy of pay and work for time credit. In addition, it reduces DOC staff labor to process jail bills.
- ✓ Redesigned the Basic Academy course of instruction for new Probation and Parole staff to emphasize the importance of reentry principles and provide staff with a better understanding of the total agency goals and principles. The redesign which was completed during the first half of 2008 was implemented during the second half with great success.
- ✓ Improved open lines of communication to the county jailers and fiscal courts by:
 - Attending Department of Local Government, Kentucky Association of Counties, and Kentucky Judges Executive Association Conferences.
 - Participating in Round Table Discussions at DLG. Provided training for KaCo & KJEAC.
 - Keeping the Directors Vince Lang, Bob Arnold, Junior Wright informed of jail issues by email.
 - Attending KJA summer & winter conferences. Attended KJA Board Meetings
 - Establishing a group email (personal email) for all jailers; almost daily, they receive an email from Deputy Commissioner of Local Facilities’ office.
 - Sending County Jailers all pre-filed bills that could affect jails.
 - Talking daily with KJA President about current issues with jails.
- ✓ Completed the full transition from .38-caliber revolvers to Glock model 23 semi-automatic pistols for the Division of Probation & Parole. The conversion, which began in 2007, includes all officers, assistant supervisors, supervisors and Branch Managers. They have been successfully trained and transitioned to the new weapon.
- ✓ Provided budget support to jailers by showing them cost saving ideas, including:
 - Providing staffing analysis (8-hour vs. 12-hour shifts) and other measures.
 - Recommended jailers consider private vendors for food and medical service in order
 - to reduce costs.
 - Demonstrating how chemical dispensing machines can reduce chemical cost.
- ✓ Took leadership role after Bourbon County Jailer and Chief Deputy were indicted; ran day-to-day operation, until the Fiscal Court could find a temporary replacement for the jailer and chief deputy.
- ✓ Created a good working relationship with KACo. The organization has been able to provide additional training to jails from the information we provided to them.

- ✓ The Division of Probation and Parole has implemented the process of standardizing all offender pictures in the Kentucky Offender Management System and all photos which appear on the Kentucky Sex Offender Registry.
- ✓ Completed a review of policies and received approval on all updates and changes from the Legislative Joint Committee on Policy Review.
- ✓ Enhanced System of “Best Correctional Practices in Purchasing.” Created an enhanced support network for local jailers and jail staff on all purchasing-related issues. Many of the larger jails in the state (such as Jefferson, Fayette, & Kenton) have personnel who investigate, experiment and run quality control tests to evaluate different products. Based on those evaluations they compare pricing before purchasing. We have been able to share that with all the jailers across the state. Our staff works with local officials in an effort to assist them in purchasing items less costly, thereby saving taxpayers money.
- ✓ Increased collection of supervision fees and drug testing fees by 10%. As a result of our monthly case reviews by managers, Officers and Supervisors are being held more accountable. Therefore, there has been an increase in all fee collections.
- ✓ A new and innovative approach to tracking probation and parole violators was instituted by the Division of Probation and Parole. A cyber investigations officer was implemented to use all internet resources available (such as social networks i.e. MySpace) to track down missing offenders. The officer appointed to these job duties has been responsible for information leading to the arrest of approximately 10 offenders, as well as, supplying additional support for internal affairs investigations. Officer Shannon Blalock has already garnered national attention for her work and has presented her work at two Federal Criminal Justice conferences.
- ✓ Successful disbursement of federal grant funds for sex offender emergency management. These funds were used by offenders for rental assistance, food, medical needs, transportation and other basic living needs. Approximately \$105,000 was disbursed to assist 77 eligible offenders from January – June 2008.

◆ SUPPORT SERVICES

- ✓ Department of Corrections is in the process of partnering with the Department of Public Advocacy (DPA) to use the Kentucky Parole Board videoconferencing equipment in order to provide a setting for confidential attorney-client communication in DOC institutions. This will save DPA money in travel costs.
- ✓ Budget/Fiscal Office – The Kentucky Department of Corrections began the year with a \$33 M deficit and through tough scrutiny; thorough analysis and innovative management the department finished the year with less than a \$600,000 deficit. The Department's budget office was critical in the DOC securing an additional \$48 M during a financially constrained state budget.
- ✓ Kentucky became one of only 10 states to provide Performance Based Measures information to a nationally established data base.
- ✓ In addition to using Radio Frequency, the Department of Corrections chose to include Global Positioning System (GPS). With the use of GPS, the Department of Corrections increased the Home Incarceration Program (HIP) from 120 days to 180 days from completion of sentence.
- ✓ Several new processes were automated through KOMS in 2008: Transfers, Meritorious Good Time, Good Time Restorations, Work For Time Credit (WFTC), Legislative Changes, Visitation, Canteen, Inmate Banking, Bed Assignments, Prior Resident Record Card, Security Threat Group, Work Assignments, Jobs & Programs, and Population Tracking.
- ✓ The Department converted a Branch manager to oversee the Home Incarceration program (HIP) and Re-Entry Initiative created by the DOC.
- ✓ The Department of Corrections entered into a contract with Bluegrass Development out of Richmond to house 80 male inmates on June 16, 2008.
- ✓ The Department of Corrections entered into a contract with five Recovery Kentucky Centers to house male and female offenders in need of Substance Abuse Care. These centers are located throughout the Commonwealth.
- ✓ The Division of Corrections Training conducted 376 different courses, trained 7,722 people, and instructed a total of 11,774 hours.

◆ IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- ✓ The Kentucky DOC Re-entry Hotline is a huge success and is vying for an “Innovations in American Government” award. Only 15% of applicants make it this far in the judging. Nearly 18 months ago, DOC implemented this innovative “Re-entry Hotline,” the first such program of its kind in the history of the department. The hotline has received nearly 4,000 calls since its launch and is reporting a substantial increase on a monthly basis in calls.
- ✓ Department of Corrections hosted for the first time the “The National Major Gang Task Force” 14th Annual Conference September 23rd – 26th at the Galt House in Louisville, KY; and the Kentucky Council on Crime & Delinquency (KCCD) 49th Annual Conference September 1st – September 5th at the Galt House in Louisville, KY.
- ✓ The Department implemented KIMS through KOMS for state pay, bed tracking, and visitation. They provided web service to our canteen vendors so they could use their own work flow. They also worked through the KOMS vender to write programs to identify inmates impacted by the changes in legislation. Many parts of the Department worked on the KOMS implementation. IT has and is still providing statistical data for our agency and outside agencies.
- ✓ In September of 2008, Governor Steve Beshear and Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown announced “Public Safety First,” an initiative that combined several public safety technology systems under one umbrella. With this new initiative, the existing Kentucky VINE service, managed by the Kentucky Department of Corrections’ Office of Victim Services will see new enhancements. These enhancements include the expansion of court hearing notifications for statewide access along with the ability to receive notification for misdemeanor as well as felony cases. It also brought the addition of a brand new service for OVS, called “Vine Protective Order (VPO).” With VPO, victims of domestic violence receive notification when their protective orders are served.

The Kentucky VINE Service now offers three vital information and technology tools: Offender Status, Court Hearings, and Protective Orders. The rollout of these new and improved services will begin in the first quarter of 2009.

- ✓ Canine Teams - The Department of Corrections is extremely proud of its canine tracking program. Originally started at Bell County Forestry Camp, DOC now has a total of five canine teams across the state. As a result of that first successful program, the Bell County program has been able to place dogs at the other DOC sites and train staff. We have also placed dogs with the Kentucky State Police, Bell County Rescue Squad, and have interest from a couple of jails as well as the Middlesboro Police Department.

These canine teams are strategically located to serve several of our prisons: One team based at Roederer Correctional Complex for the LaGrange area Institutions and KCIW; one team at Little Sandy for that institution and EKCC; one team at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex to serve that prison and KSP; a team at Green River; and one at Blackburn Correctional Complex in Central Kentucky.

These canine teams and their correctional staff handlers are not only involved in searches in the event of an escape from one of our institutions, their first and foremost mission, but they are also called upon and assist area fire and rescue agencies in the search for missing citizens. These teams collectively have been called upon over a dozen times in 2008 in their local communities.

The canine teams have been utilized on five escapes from minimum-security units from DOC institutions.

In addition, Roederer Correctional Complex received a drug dog in August 2008 that already has been utilized eight times. She has found marijuana two times – once in the mailroom and the other time on an inmate. Both incidents were at RCC. A month later, the institution obtained a tobacco-sniffing dog and this animal has been utilized nine times. He has found tobacco on inmates and in cells at RCC, KCIW and KSR.

◆ NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

In 2008 staff from throughout the Department of Corrections represented the agency with honor on numerous national committees or by their receipt of national recognition.

- **LaDonna Thompson, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Corrections –Chair of ASCA (Association of State Correctional Administrators) Pandemic Virus Committee**
- **J. David Donahue, Warden, Kentucky State Reformatory – a 2008 recipient of the Secretary of the Army Public Service Award for distinguished service as an expert advisor; Executive Council Board of Directors, NGTF (National Gang Task Force); ACA (American Correctional Association) Chair for Safety Issues Committee. Commissioner – ACA Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC)**

- **Scott Haas, DOC Medical Director - Commissioner, Commission on Accreditation, Member, Health Care Committee, Member, Mental Health Committee; Also in the spring of 2008, Dr. Haas was selected to be a member of a four-person audit team sent into Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to review all aspects of medical and mental health operations for detainees held at the facility. The audit was requested by the Secretary of the Department of Defense, Robert Gates.**
- **Cookie Crews – Warden, Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women – Secretary, SCCA (Southern States Correctional Association)**
- **Liz McKune, Assistant Director of Psychological Services - American Psychological Association (APA) of Business of Practice Network Advisory Committee; APA HOPE Regional Trainer**
- **Robin Sublett, Psychologist - President of Kentucky Psychological Association**
- **Tracy Goins, District 18 Probation and Parole Officer - Vice-President of the National Chapter of the Midwest Gang Investigators' Association (MGIA).**
- **Byron Jasis, Kentucky State Penitentiary Corrections Unit Administrator II - Board of Directors for the Correctional Accreditation Managers' Association (CAMA).**
- **Joy Horton, Division of Probation and Parole Regional Branch Manager, ACA delegate elected to represent Probation - Adult.**
- **Wendy Hayden completed Six Sigma Training in November 2008 with General Electric. One main focus of Six Sigma is the process of implementing new programs and gaining staff support during change. These concepts will be of some assistance while the Department gears up for Re-entry initiatives.**
- **Stephanie Appel was elected and is currently serving as the Treasurer for the IPMA-HR Southern Region and serve on the IPMA-HR Southern Region Governing Board. (IPMA-HR stands for International Public Management Association for Human Resources). The Southern Region makes up of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Georgia, Oklahoma, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia. IPMA-HR is an organization that represents the interest of human resource professionals at the Federal, State and Local levels of government.**
- **Bill Briscoe, deputy warden at Blackburn Correctional Complex, was chosen as the Kentucky representative on the SSCA Board.**
- **Mary Godfrey, DOC Central Region Training Instructor – Regional Field Training Coordinator for the National Institute of Corrections. The NIC training region includes 13 central states. The position is a three-year commitment that will conclude in October of 2009 at which time she will become an alumni coordinator for 2009-2010; Member SSCA Program Committee**